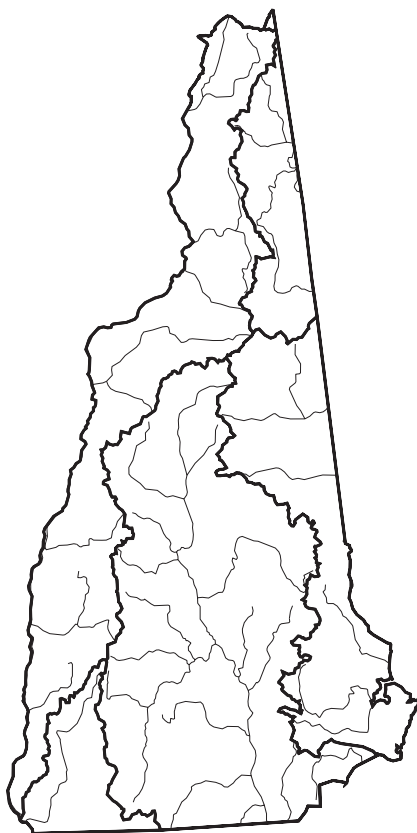


New Hampshire

— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)



For a copy of the New Hampshire
1996 305(b) report, contact:

Gregg Comstock
State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental
Services
Water Division
64 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2457

Surface Water Quality

Since 1994, New Hampshire has issued a statewide freshwater consumption advisory due to mercury levels found in fish tissue; the primary source of which is believed to be atmospheric deposition from upwind States. When this advisory is included in the assessment, all fresh surface waters, by definition, are less than fully supporting of all uses. If this advisory is not included in the assessment, however, the quality of the State's surface waters is excellent with over 99% of the river miles and over 92% of the lake acres fully supporting aquatic life uses and swimming.

The State's estuaries fully support most uses with the primary

exception of shellfish consumption. Over 61% of the shellfish beds are closed due to bacteria and a consumption advisory for lobster tomalley is in effect in 84% of the estuaries due to PCB contamination.

Bacteria is the leading cause of impairment in rivers. Dissolved oxygen depletion, macrophytes and nutrients are the major cause of impairment in lakes. Most of these impairments are naturally occurring. Nonpoint sources are responsible for most of the pollution entering the State's waters.

Ground Water Quality

New Hampshire is highly dependent on ground water for drinking water. Natural ground water quality from stratified drift aquifers is generally good; however, aesthetic concerns such as taste and odor exist. Bedrock well water quality is also generally good although it can be impacted by naturally occurring contaminants including fluoride, arsenic, mineral radioactivity and radon gas.

In addition to naturally occurring contaminants, there are many areas of localized contamination due primarily to releases of petroleum and volatile organic compounds from petroleum facilities, commercial and industrial operations, and landfills. Due to widespread winter application of road salt, sodium is also a contaminant of concern.

In 1994, New Hampshire received EPA's endorsement of its Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program (CSGWPP), an acknowledgment that the State has an array of local, State and Federal ground water protection programs that are sufficiently coordinated to comprehensively protect ground water. As part of the CSGWPP development process, all of the different

parties interested in protection of ground water came together and jointly developed a multiyear work plan to enhance existing efforts.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Over the past 25 years, New Hampshire has eliminated or abated all significant untreated municipal and industrial wastewater discharges in State waters. To resolve remaining problems, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) initiated a basin protection approach in 1995. As part of this approach, DES will compile watershed maps and land use data, identify major sources of pollution, and establish local watershed advisory committees in each basin to create and implement local watershed plans.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

DES implemented a 3-year rotating watershed monitoring program in 1989. From 1993 to 1996 the rotation was temporarily halted to intensify monitoring at sites exceeding standards. In 1997, DES intends to resume the rotating watershed monitoring program. To assess the ecological health of rivers and streams, DES initiated a biological monitoring program in 1995. DES also has several lake assessment programs including a volunteer monitoring program.

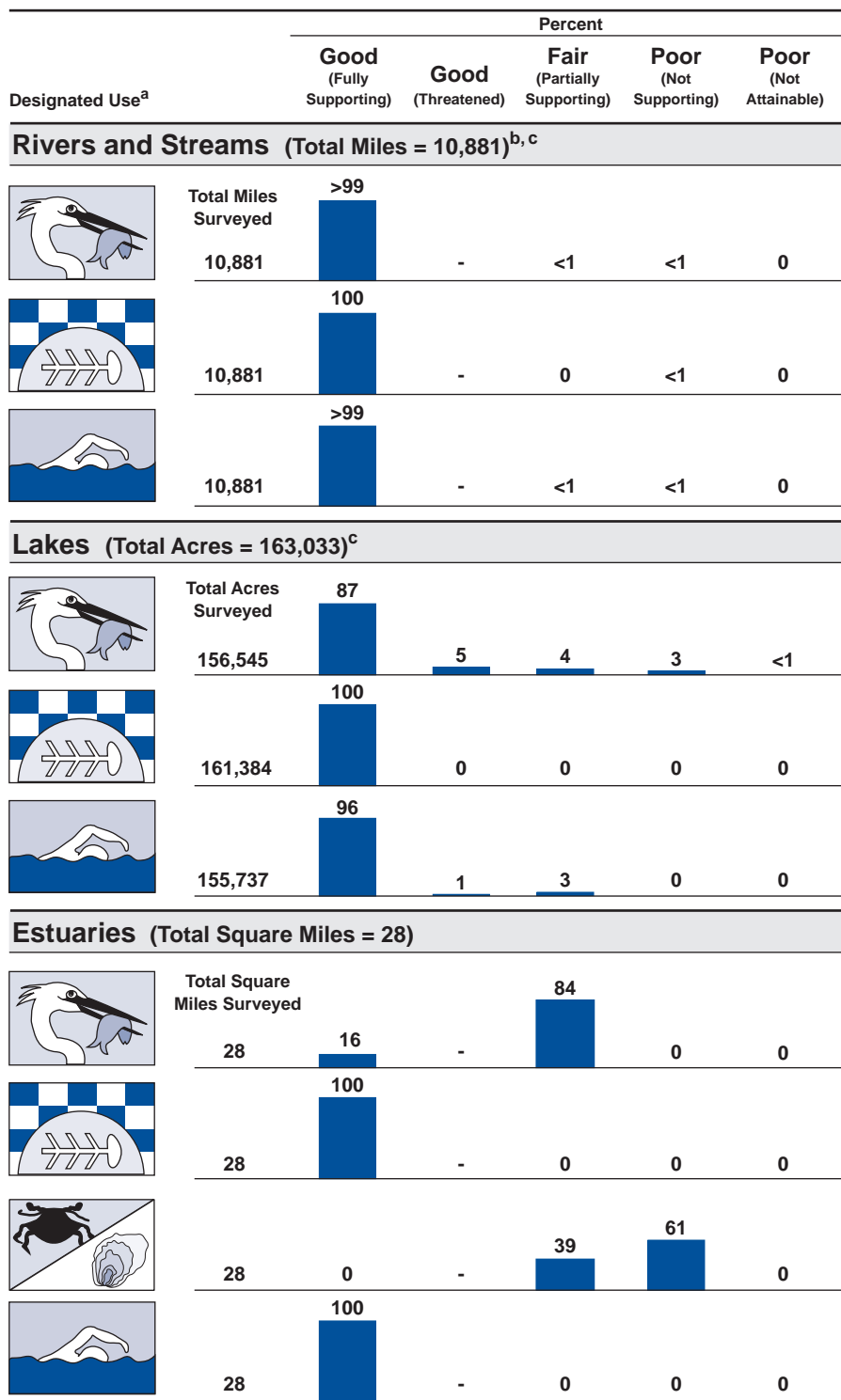
– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of New Hampshire's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

^c Excluding the statewide freshwater fish consumption advisory due to mercury.

Individual Use Support in New Hampshire



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.